











# Power of Preschool



Quality preschool provides an extra boost for children preparing for kindergarten and beyond. One of First 5 California's top priorities is making quality preschool available to every three and four-year-old in California. It has joined the 58 county commissions and other partners to invest nearly one billion dollars over five years to help all children in California to attend quality preschool.

## Accomplishments to Date: The Power of Preschool

-  First 5 California funds nine Power of Preschool Demonstration Projects in Los Angeles, Merced, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Ventura and Yolo Counties.
-  The nine PoP counties expect to serve about 9,300 children during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. More than 85,000 additional children from diverse backgrounds are expected to attend preschool statewide by 2010.
- PoP Demonstration Projects provide:**
  -  Universal, voluntary and free access to high-quality preschools for 3- and 4-year-olds.
  -  Periodic health and developmental screenings, assessments and follow-ups.
  -  A preschool curriculum aligned with the California Department of Education's Developmental Standards.
  -  Nutritious meals and snacks.
  -  Transition support for children entering preschool and for preschoolers entering kindergarten.
  -  Family partnerships and support services.



Both families and communities benefit when children participate in quality preschool programs. In July 2003, First 5 California invested \$100 million in its voluntary Power of Preschool (PoP) program to ensure all children get the chance to attend preschool and thrive.

-  Children who attend preschool do better in reading and math, and are more likely to graduate from high school, go to college and develop better emotional and social skills.
-  Investing in preschool benefits society in the form of reduced crime costs, welfare dependency, economic losses and saved tax dollars.

*"Our children's experience has improved markedly over the past few weeks. We have also noticed that they now approach preschool activities more confidently and readily. I have personally seen the benefits that come from working with this program with my own children, so I know that our preschool class will also benefit and possibly exceed most expectations of their future teachers."*

*— Shontaye Washington, parent  
and childcare provider, Sacramento, CA*